

REMARKS

Claims 11, 13 and 19 have been amended, and claims 1-10 and 15-18 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 11-14 and 19-20 remain in the application.

Claims 11-12 and 19-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lipfert et al. (U.S. 3,952,737); and claims 13-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lipfert et al. in view of Kohl (U.S. 2,818,856).

Claims 11, 13 and 19 have been amended to more specifically define the invention to distinguish over the cited references.

It is believed that the Examiner is mistaken when stating that Lipfert et al, discloses "an apparatus for vaginal delineation and occlusion, comprises a solid ring (156), a plurality of legs..." In fact, Lipfert's device is not vaginal but a cervical cup which doesn't have anything to do with delineation and occlusion of the vagina. Also, the Examiner states that in Fig. 6, the applicator has a solid ring (156), which in the Lipfert patent application is described as U-shaped circumference. The Examiner has also stated that the base (152) is for securing apparatus to the uterine mobilizer, but the inventor is describing that part as an integral hinge.

Regarding our claim 12, the Examiner claims that by means of squeezing and opening the legs (154) together, the angle is changed on the Lipfert cup. This is not correct. It is the diameter which is changed.

With respect to claims 19 and 20, Lipfert discloses an elastic diaphragm which obstructs an opening of the cervical cup and allows the flow in one direction only. Applicant's silicone ring obstructs the vagina by its rim or outer periphery and does not allow flow in any direction.

The mentioned patent of Kohl also discloses a cervical cup and does not have anything to do with the delineation and obstruction of the vagina. The purpose and function of these two

devices are significantly different.

In view of the above, it is believed that all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Konstantin L. VALTCHEV

September 4, 2007

By: /Richard L. Fix/
Richard L. Fix
Reg. No. 28,297

STURM & FIX LLP
206 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1213
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4076
Phone: 515-288-9589
Fax: 515-288-4860
e-mail: fix@hslip.com